

Amendments to the Specification:

Replace the first paragraph with the following:

This application is a divisional patent application of prior application 09/966,509 filed on September 28, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,767,200.

Page 20, replace the 2<sup>nd</sup> full paragraph with the following:

The preferred vacuum fill system described is advantageous over conventional systems in that poorly flowing and non-flowing powders can be run at high speed and high accuracy without the need for wet granulation. In particular, powders having a minimum orifice diameter of flowability greater than about 10, preferably 15, more preferably 25 mm or further alternatively 30 mm, as measured by the Flowdex test, may be successfully compressed into dosage forms in the present compression module. The Flowdex test is performed as follows. The minimum orifice diameter is determined using a Flodex Apparatus Model 21-101-050 (Hanson Research Corp., Chatsworth, CA), which consists of a cylindrical cup for holding the powder sample (diameter 5.7 cm, height 7.2 cm), and a set of interchangeable disks, each with a different diameter round opening at the center. The disks are attached to the cylindrical cup to form the bottom of the "cup." For filling, the orifice is covered with a clamp. Minimum orifice diameter measurements are performed using 100g samples of powder. A 100g sample is placed into the cup. After 30 seconds the clamp is removed, and the powder allowed to flow out of the cup through the orifice. This procedure is repeated with increasingly smaller orifice diameters until the powder no longer flows freely through the orifice. The minimum orifice diameter is defined as the smallest opening through which the powder flows freely.

Page 21, replace the 3<sup>rd</sup> full paragraph with the following:

Powder is fed into the die cavities 132 in the fill zone 102. The powder may preferably consist of a medicant optionally containing various excipients, such as binders, disintegrants, lubricants, fillers and the like, as is conventional, or other particulate material of a medicinal or non-medicinal nature, such as inactive placebo blends for tabletting, confectionery blends, and the

like. One particularly preferred formulation comprises medicant, powdered wax (such as shellac wax, microcrystalline wax, polyethylene glycol, and the like), and optionally disintegrants and lubricants and is described in more detail in commonly assigned co-pending United States Patent Application Serial No. 09/966,493, entitled "Immediate Release Tablet" (attorney docket number MCP-274) which is hereby incorporated by reference.